

Senate Joint Resolution No. 21

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 77

Senate Joint Resolution No. 21—Relative to sudden child cardiac arrhythmia syndrome.

[Filed with Secretary of State June 30, 2006.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 21, Machado. Sudden child cardiac arrhythmia syndrome.

This measure would memorialize the President and Congress of the United States to take necessary action to enact HR 1252, thus amending the Public Health Service Act to provide for a program of screenings and education regarding children with sudden cardiac arrhythmia syndromes.

WHEREAS, Teague Ryan was a five-year old boy who died of long Q-T syndrome, a genetic heart problem that caused the electrical rhythm of the heart to malfunction. It usually occurs in children or young adults; and

WHEREAS, Each month in the United States between 250 and 600 children die suddenly and unexpectedly from cardiac arrhythmia syndromes. These syndromes include long Q-T syndrome, arrhythmogenic right ventricular dysplasia, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, and other conditions; and

WHEREAS, Long Q-T syndrome is more common in the United States than childhood leukemia; and

WHEREAS, Most cardiac arrhythmia syndromes are identifiable through screenings. Once diagnosed, these syndromes are treatable and individuals can lead a normal life. Currently, children are not automatically screened for any cardiac arrhythmia syndromes; and

WHEREAS, Under the proposal currently included in House Resolution 1252, the Secretary of the federal Department of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, would be authorized to make awards of grants to states, and other public or nonprofit private entities, such as the Cardiac Arrhythmias Research and Education Foundation, the Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndromes Foundation, and the Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association; and

WHEREAS, These federal grants could be used to screen children under 19 years of age for sudden arrhythmic syndromes, provide referrals for medical services regarding these syndromes, and provide education to health professions and the public, including education on screening methods; and

WHEREAS, The Secretary would be required to give priority in making awards to children who participate in organized sports; and

WHEREAS, The Secretary would be authorized to provide technical assistance to grantees regarding the planning, development, and operation of programs. This technical assistance could be made directly or through grants. The Secretary would be required to provide for evaluations of programs in order to determine the effectiveness and quality of the programs; and

WHEREAS, Under House Resolution 1252, the federal government would appropriate the amount of \$20,000,000 for the fiscal year 2006, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2007 through 2010; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully memorializes the President and Congress of the United States to take necessary action to enact House Resolution 1252, thus amending the Public Health Service Act to provide for a program of screenings and education regarding children with sudden cardiac arrhythmia syndromes; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, to the Chair of the House Committee on Appropriations, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.